



*Additional Archive
Materials*



Contents

These are all the files in the Liverpool World Museum's archives that associate with William Sharp's collection and catalogues. Many are correspondences occurring after the loss of the collection but are still important as they document the collection's importance and history under the care of the Liverpool World Museum.

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Obituary.

Through the death of *William E. Sharp*, which took place suddenly at Crowthorne, Berks, on May 20th, we have lost one of the best of our British Coleopterists. Sharp was born at Sparkbrook, near Birmingham, in 1856; when he was three years old, his father engaged in business in Liverpool, and the family removed to Oxtou, Cheshire; subsequently he went to Birkenhead School, where he received a prize from the hands of Charles Kingsley, for whom he always had a great respect; from an early age he showed a taste for natural history—this and an artistic temperament he inherited from his mother. Dr. Pearce, the headmaster of Birkenhead School, was very anxious that he should go to Oxford or Cambridge, but he was prevented through lack of means, and joined his father's business. In 1883 he married Miss Katherine Green of Ledsham. For many years he was a member of the Lancashire and Cheshire Entomological Society, and in 1906 he published his valuable list of the Coleoptera of Lancashire and Cheshire. In 1899 he took up work in London and joined the Entomological Society, and made many friends. His health, however, broke down, and a few years ago he retired to Crowthorne. The district round Crowthorne, often known as the "Wellington College district" (the College being situated in the parish of Crowthorne), is one of the best collecting grounds in England, and the country with its undulating sweep of pine woods stretching for miles towards Hampshire and Surrey was a source of perpetual delight to him, both from an artistic (he made many water-colour sketches) and natural history point of view. The chief publication written by Mr. Sharp was a volume entitled "Common Beetles of the Country Side," an excellent piece of work, showing both great accuracy and considerable literary ability. He had a strong sense of the beautiful, and some of his descriptions of localities have a true poetic ring about them. We have already mentioned his Catalogue of Lancashire and Cheshire Coleoptera, and he was a valued contributor to the "Entomologist's Monthly Magazine": two of his last contributions were on the Coleoptera of the Crowthorne district, and the habits of *Melanophila acuminata*, the "Fire-beetle," which appeared in great numbers in 1918 in places where the pine woods were being cut down and the stumps and refuse burnt.

The subject of our memoir was one of the kindest and most amiable of men; he was most generous and always ready to show his localities to any Coleopterist who desired information: one could not imagine his quarrelling with anyone for his one desire was to help. He had had great troubles throughout his life and met them all bravely, but there is no doubt that the death of his son in 1916 (he was shot by a sniper in France) did much finally to break his health. We will conclude with the following quotation from a letter from a Coleopterist well-known to most of us and who really ought to have written this notice; after speaking of his great ability as a Coleopterist and his lovable character, he continues:—"I have known him now for nearly a quarter of a century, have kept up regular and close correspondence with him, and have explored many parts of the kingdom in his company, and I can safely say that I have never had a better friend, and have never met a man whom I esteemed so warmly as Sharp." His collection of beetles has been purchased by the Liverpool Public Museum.—W. W. F.

D 7.8.19

INSECTA COLEOPTERA

W.E.Sharp. British Coleoptera

This collection was destroyed in the bombing of Liverpool Museum. It comprised some 20,000 specimens, and was purchased from Sharps' executors for £40. The catalogue in three large volumes was salvaged from the strong room. It gives the data of each specimen and is therefore of importance.

W.E.Sharp (1856-1919) was for many years a member of the Lancashire and Cheshire Entomological Society. He wrote an account of the Coleoptera of Lancashire and Cheshire (1908).

Obituary Notices - Entomologists Monthly Magazine
November 1919; Lancashire & Cheshire Naturalist Sept.1919.

LIST OF REFEREES.

VERTEBRATA	...	T. A. Coward, Brentwood, Bowdon, Cheshire.
MOLLUSCA	...	J. W. Jackson, The Museum, The University, Manchester.
WOODLICE	...	R. Standen, " "
CRUSTACEA (except wood-lice)	Dr. W. M. Tattersall,	" "
PSEUDOSCORPIONS	...	R. Standen, " "
SPIDERS,	{	Dr. A. Randell Jackson, Westcote, Hoole Rd., Chester.
HARVESTMEN		W. Falconer, Wibberlee, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield.
MYRIAPODA, PAUROPODA,	{	Rev. S. G. Brade-Birks, M.Sc.,
AND SYMPHYLA		16, Bank Street, Darwen.
MITES	...	Rev. J. E. Hull, Ninebanks Vicarage, Whitefield, S.O., Northumberland.
TICKS	...	L. E. Robinson, A.R.C.Sc., The Laboratory, Rickmansworth Road, Watford, Herts.
COLEOPTERA	...	H. Britten, The Museum, University, Manchester.
LEPIDOPTERA	{	W. Mansbridge, Dunraven, Church Rd., Wavertree, Liverpool.
		A. W. Boyd, The Alton, Altrincham, Cheshire.
DIPTERA	...	H. Bury, Lomber Hey, High Lane, Stockport.
ANTS	...	H. St. J. K. Donisthorpe, 19, Hazelwell Road, Putney, London, S.W.
BEEES, WASPS, AND	{	Rev. F. D. Morice, Brunswick, Mount Hermon, Woking.
SAW-FLIES		
HEMIPTERA	...	E. A. Butler, 14, Drylands Road, Hornsey, N. 8.
APHIDÆ	...	A. W. Rymer Roberts, The Common, Windermere.
COLLEMBOLA	...	J. W. Shoebotham, Ferndale, New Rd., Berkhamstead
ORTHOPTERA, ODONATA (Dragon flies)	{	W. J. Lucas, 28, Knight's Park, Kingston-on-Thames.
NEUROPTERA (Alder flies, Snake flies, Lace-wings, Dusty wings, Scorpion flies)		
THYSANOPTERA, THYSANURA,	{	R. S. Bagnall, Rydal Mount, Blaydon-on-Tyne.
MALLOPHAGA, ANOPLURA		
FRESHWATER POLYZOA,	{	Dr. W. M. Tattersall, The Museum, The University, Manchester.
" HYDROIDS & HYDRA		
" SPONGES		
ANNELIDS (Earthworms and Aquatic Round Worms)	...	Rev. Hilderic Friend, The Zool. Dept., University of Birmingham.
BOTANY	...	A. A. Dallman, 17, Mount Road, Higher Tranmere, Birkenhead.
MOSSES AND HEPATICS	...	W. H. Pearson, 18, Palatine Road, Withington, Manchester.
GEOLOGY	...	J. W. Jackson, The Museum, The University, Manchester.

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No. 64 Nat

THE Lancashire & Cheshire Naturalist.

VOLUME XII. No. 3.

SEPTEMBER, 1919.

William Ernest Sharp.

AN APPRECIATION.

It is with the greatest regret that we have to announce the death of William Ernest Sharp, so well known as a coleopterist and as the author of "The Coleoptera of Lancashire and Cheshire," published in 1908 by the Lancashire and Cheshire Entomological Society. The loss of so competent an authority is particularly serious to the natural science of these counties. It is much to be hoped that his collection will find a permanent home in Liverpool where most of his life was spent—it was his great wish that this should happen, and we understand that there is every prospect of the wish being realised.

Sharp was born at Sparkbrook, near Birmingham, in 1856. Three years later the family moved to Oxton, and as a boy he attended Birkenhead School, on one occasion receiving a prize at the hands of Charles Kingsley. His headmaster, Dr. Pearce, had a very high opinion of his abilities and urged that he should be sent to college, but the means were not forthcoming and he, therefore, entered his father's business in Liverpool.

Sharp was a born naturalist and very soon showed a remarkable bent for natural history. He started in the usual way by collecting almost everything, and took lessons in taxidermy. He undoubtedly inherited these tastes from his mother, as well as considerable artistic ability, which in later life showed itself in water-colour sketching.

In 1883 he married Miss Katherine Green, of Ledsham, and leaves three daughters. His only son,

Lancashire and Cheshire Naturalist

Arthur, enlisted out in Canada in the Canadian Mounted Rifles, and was killed at the Front in March, 1916, by a sniper's bullet. How profoundly Sharp was affected by the loss even his greatest friends could hardly realise.

In 1899 he left Liverpool and took up work in London, and in 1902 was elected a Fellow of the Entomological Society of London. The opportunities thus opened up of meeting fellow entomologists were a great and lasting pleasure to him and he soon became a familiar figure at all meetings of the Society. His health, however, was slowly failing, and a few years later he was obliged to give up work and retire to Crowthorne, near Wokingham, where amid the woods his tastes found full scope. Elected to the Council of the London Society in 1912, he was obliged the year after to relinquish office, as he did not always feel up to the periodical journeys which this involved. He was able to undertake some light clerical work in Reading, and the writer of this notice had a long and very cheery chat with him in his little office on May 19th last. He had just moved into a new house and was looking forward to starting work on the garden. The next day he died suddenly whilst digging.

Sharp had great gifts as a writer and a very happy facility of expression and description, and his contributions to scientific periodicals have been very numerous. Allusion has already been made to his excellent "Coleoptera of Lancashire and Cheshire."

His *magnum opus* was undoubtedly his "Common Beetles of our Countryside" ("Beetles for Babes," as he himself wanted it to be called), a volume of some 340 pages and 13 plates issued two or three years ago, written in his own most attractive style, and rich in information on beetle ecology and all kinds of country lore. Sharp's writings evince an unusual knowledge of literature, but probably very few of his friends ever realised what a storehouse he was in this respect,—and that not only of English

The late Dr. J. Wigglesworth

literature. Many an apt quotation forms the text at the heading of his writings in print. We cannot close this insufficient appreciation of Sharp's life better than by quoting the Virgilian couplet which appears on the title-page of his "Countryside," because it so adequately sums up what was to him the chiefest pleasure:

Fortunatus et ille deos qui novit agrestes,
Panaque Siivanumque senem Nymphasque sorores.

J. R. U. B. TOMLIN.

The late Dr. J. Wigglesworth.

WE regret to have to record the death of Dr. J. Wigglesworth which took place, under tragic circumstances, on May 16th. Dr. Wigglesworth was for thirty years resident Medical Superintendent of the Rainhill County Asylum, near Liverpool, and during that long period divided his leisure time between his two favourite studies, ornithology and botany. He was not a prolific writer but his reputation as an enthusiastic and accurate field naturalist received due recognition by his election in 1899 to the presidency of the Liverpool Biological Society.

His presidential address on "Flightless Birds" was a clearly thought-out statement of the many zoological problems presented by these birds. In the prosecution of his study of birds Dr. Wigglesworth travelled widely and the results of his observations have enriched ornithological literature in no small degree. His best known work was on the ornithological results of his expedition to St. Kilda, published in the *Transactions of the Liverpool Biological Society*. Since his retirement in 1914, Dr. Wigglesworth had given himself up almost entirely to the study of the Avifauna of Somerset, where he had gone to reside. He has contributed several notes on rare birds in Somersetshire to *British Birds* and to the *Transactions of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society*, and it was in the prosecution of his favourite hobby that he met his death at Porlock, Somerset, as a result of a fall over



25, Calverley Street,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent.

Dear Mr. Ford,

1st December, 1966

Mr. J. Balfour-Browne, Principal Scientific Officer in the Dept. of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History), tells me that you may be in charge of Mr. W.E. Sharp's collection of Coleoptera. In 1907, Sharp recorded Hydroporus melanarius from 'near Crowborough', Sussex. I have recently found H. longicornis Sharp near Crowborough. This is a species of extreme rarity, and melanarius has only one confirmed record for Sussex. I think that Mr. Sharp may well have taken longicornis, and I wonder if the specimens are extant? If they are, would it be possible for Mr. Balfour-Browne or myself to examine them?

I am engaged in a survey of the water beetles (Haliplidae, Hygrobiidae, Dytiscidae, and Hydrophilidae excluding Sphaeridiinae), and it is possible that Mr. Sharp may have had other records of interest. Is there a possibility that you can provide me with data from his collection or notebooks?

Yours sincerely,

G.N. Foster

W.K. Ford, Esq.,
Keeper of Invertebrates,
Free Public Museum (Brown Museum),
William Brown Street,
Liverpool 3.

FILE

Coll. Ins
WKF/AM

6th December, 1966

Mr. G. N. Foster,
25 Calverley Street,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS, Kent.

Dear Mr. Foster,

Thank you for your letter of 1st December about the W. E. Sharp collection of Coleoptera. I am sorry to say that this collection was destroyed when our Museum was bombed in 1941. We do, however, possess a catalogue of the collection. This shows that Hydroporus longicornis was not represented. H. melanarius is listed from six localities including Crowborough, Sussex, July 1906.

Yours sincerely,

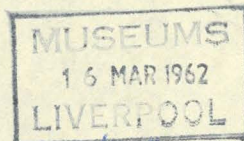
W. K. Ford
Keeper of Invertebrate Zoology

Misc. Pub.



University Library,
Old College,
South Bridge,
Edinburgh, 8.

15th Mar. 1962



Dear Sir,

I understand that you have a collection of the books and MSS of W. E. Sharp, the coleopterist (1856-1919). If it includes his MS journal "Collecting days" I would be interested to know if it lacks some volumes. We have No. 3 only.

Yours sincerely,

Charles P. Furlanston,

Keeper of Manuscripts

FILE

MIS. PUB.
WKF/MD

26th March, 1962

Mr. C. P. Finlayson,
University Library,
Old College,
South Bridge,
EDINBURGH. 8.

Dear Mr. Finlayson,

Thank you for your letter of March 15th about the W. E. Sharp manuscripts. We have a catalogue of Sharp's collection of British Beetles. It is in three large volumes and each beetle is separately listed. A number of letters from other coleopterists are pasted into the catalogue. All I have been able to find apart from this is a smaller volume which seems to have been an earlier catalogue. I cannot recall ever having seen a journal entitled "collecting days".

Sharp's collection was destroyed when our museum was bombed in 1941. We have a copy of his paper "The Coleoptera of Lancashire and Cheshire" published in 1908. He wrote a book entitled "Common Beetles of our Countryside" but we do not possess a copy of this.

Yours sincerely,

W. K. Ford,
Keeper of Invert. Zool.

Cole ins.

KF/MEH.

27th August, 1952..

Dear Mr. Pritchard,

Before the war we had in our museum the collection of coleoptera made by W.E.Sharp and we still have the catalogues to this collection. I understand that Sharp published a list of Lancashire and Cheshire Coleoptera in 1906. If there should be a copy of this in the library of the Lancashire and Cheshire Entomological Society I should be very grateful if I could borrow it for a few days.

I hope all goes well with you. May I remind you that any members of your society are welcome to see our reference collections so long as they just let me know when they are coming.

Yours sincerely,

W.K.Ford.
Keeper of Invertebrate Zoology.

R. Pritchard Esq.,
Lincona,
Woodcroft Lane,
Bebington.

Lancashire and Cheshire Entomological Society

(FOUNDED 1877)

HON. SECRETARY.
R. PRICHARD.
LINCOLN,
WOODCROFT LANE,
BEBINGTON, CHESHIRE.

11th. September 1952

Your Ref: WKF/MEH.

W. K. Ford,
Keeper of Invertebrate Zoology,
Carnatic Hall,
Elmswood Road,
LIVERPOOL, 18.

Dear Mr. Ford,

Sorry I have been so long replying to your letter of the 27th. ulto but tracing the coleoptera list involved considerable delving amongst bundles of old Proceedings & Records. However I have at last succeeded in finding a copy of Sharp's Coleoptera List published in 1908 which I enclose herewith.

You need not return it if it is of any use to you.

Yours sincerely.

R. Prichard

WKF/MEH.

15th September, 1952.

Dear Mr. Pritchard,

Thank you very much for the trouble you have taken in searching out Sharp's paper and sending it to me. I should like to take advantage of your kind offer and keep it for the museum. If you should have some more spare copies may I venture to suggest that one might be given to the Picton Reference Library. They do not appear to have a copy and I feel that they should have, as it is an important contribution to the knowledge of our local fauna.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

W.K.Ford.
Keeper of Invertebrate Zoology.

R.Pritchard Esq.,
Lincona,
Woodcroft Lane,
Bebington,
Cheshire.

DEUTSCHES ENTOMOLOGISCHES INSTITUT

DER KAISER WILHELM-GESELLSCHAFT

DIREKTOR DR. WALTHER HORN

TEL. BREITENBACH (G 6) 2490
POSTSCHECK: BERLIN 68550



KORRESPONDENZ IST STETS OHNE NENNUNG
VON PERSONEN-NAMEN AN DAS INSTITUT ZU

ADRESSIEREN

H/We

To the Director of the
Free Public Museum (Brown Museum)
L i v e r p o o l

BERLIN-DAHLEM, den 26. April 1937
GOSSLER STR. 20

Dear Sir

Would you kindly allow, that I apply to you with a little historical request, the reason for which is, that my Institut is the only place in the world where all historical notes are tried to bring together which concern entomologists and their collections

Now I know, that you have the insects-collection of
W. E. S h a r p e. Would it be possible that you could let me have

- 1) all his full Christian names,
- 2) when he was born (perhaps where he was born)
- 3) when he has died and perhaps where he did too

Thanking you at once,
Yours ever,

14th May 1937.

Dr. Walther Horn,
Der Kaiser Wilhelm-Gesellschaft,
Deutsches Entomologisches Institut,
Grossler Str. 20,
Berlin-Dahlem.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter of 26th April, which the Director has passed on to me. The following is the information you require.

1. Christian names - William Ernest.
2. Born at Sparkbrook, Warwickshire in 1856.
3. Died at Crowthorne, Berkshire in 1919.

Yours faithfully,

Keeper of the
Department of Invertebrate Zoology.

DEUTSCHES ENTOMOLOGISCHES INSTITUT

DER KAISER WILHELM-GESELLSCHAFT

DIREKTOR DR. WALTHER HORN

TEL. BREITENBACH (G 6) 2490
POSTSCHECK: BERLIN 68550



KORRESPONDENZ IST STETS OHNE NENNUNG
VON PERSONEN-NAMEN AN DAS INSTITUT ZU
ADRESSIEREN

BERLIN-DAHLEM,
GOSSLER STR. 20

Berlin-Dahlem, May 20th, 1937

H/P

To the
Keeper of the
Department of Invertebrate Zoology
Free Public Museums
William Brown Street
L i v e r p o o l

My dear Sir,

Please accept my heartiest thanks for your friendly
informations you have had the great kindness to send me on
May 14th.

Yours faithfully

Walther Horn



British Museum (Natural History)
Cromwell Road London SW7 5BD

Telephone 01-589 6323 ext

Department of Entomology

I.D.Wallace, Esq.,
Invertebrate Zoology Department
Merseyside County Museums
William Brown Street
Liverpool L3 8EN

Your reference

Our reference

Date 21st October, 1974.

Dear Mr, Wallace,

Thank you for your letter of the 15th October. You are right in thinking that generally speaking I have no records of Staphylinidae from your Museum collections and should be most grateful for any help you could give in abstracting records from your collection. As so few people are able to willing to make identifications of Staphylinidae I have, as yet, no special literature intended for recorders.

The greater part of the work of gathering records of this family is done by myself and in many cases identifications need to be checked personally. However, any records which you are able to send would be greatly appreciated. These would be suitably entered on the BRC single species cards or, as I have my own system of record-keeping which does not rely on BRC cards, I could equally well handle a list in any form.

I am also gathering records of the small beetle families Scydmaenidae and Corylophidae (= Orthoperidae) and any help with these would also be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

P.M. Hammond

